

November 6, 2012

Dear Members of the Michigan Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee:

I'm writing this letter in regards to Senate Bill SB 1350 for the establishment of a game season for wolves in Michigan. I would like to express my opposition to the adding of wolves to the list of game species and I would like to request that the committee members vote "NO" on this bill for the following reasons.

Michigan grey wolves are finally making a long overdue comeback in this state and by opening a hunting season we will only set back this path to a sustainable population. Currently these animals are only found in the Upper Peninsula and are not present in the lower part of our state as they have been in the past.

Secondly, these animals are an important aspect to our ecosystem. The DNR often states that over population of deer is due to the fact there are no natural predators anymore. As predators to deer and other wildlife the grey wolf population helps to control the natural population balance.

Lastly, any issue of concern for conflicts between wolves and humans is already being addressed by the state's current comprehensive wolf management plan. There are provisions that allow farmers and landowners to use lethal methods (when other non-lethal methods are not available) to stop wolves from attacking their livestock or pets.

I urge you to help protect Michigan's gray wolves and to not allow them to be added to the game species list by voting no on SB 1350.

Sincerely,

Donald Hughes

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